Small pleasures of life

( Based on Ph. Delerm )

Speaking about pleasures of life one might impulsively associate the subject with upmarket resorts or exotic worldwide sites, or why not fancy recreational facilities. Life at present runs at such a dynamic and hectic pace that we can hardly look around to discern that there are innumerate sources of pleasure we doggedly skip at the expense of what media advertisements endorse. Can we not derive enjoyment simply from gazing the fire-red sunset on the horizon?Why do we persistently deny the delight one can take from listening to the mysterious and subtle whisper of an afternoon rain? Another, so called, small pleasure which requiresneither special preparation nor fancy equipment, but still has its incredible effect on us seems to be beer drinking. Having that magical beverageshould not be regarded as pure quenching of thirst. Beer, with its enchanting properties, saturates all our physical perceptions, as well as it enhances our mood and spirit at large.

To begin with, to me beer drinking is a complex enjoyment. Those who simply gulp it to quench their thirst they should deserve and eventually justify as a severe penalty as to be deprived of beer till the Doomsday. Beer drinking only needs devotion and appropriate attitude. The drinker ought to try to shut out all the distracting factors around him and to focus all his senses on the process of drinking. Well-versed in beer drinking may probably know that working up a good craving for beer is an inseparable part of the drinking itself. That is, a handful of salted peanuts or a few crackers takenimmediately before the beer may work miracles. Then, once being served the drinker may want to wrap the sweating and cool tankard with his palms. This special ritual renders nearness and intimacy between both performers. The action of the beer swallowingitself is naturally preceded by inhaling the bouquet of aromas which cheerfully whirl above the tankard. The prospective beer consumer should lift the vessel with the golden fluid as slowly as possible thus to reward himself with the rich smells rising.Then, the drinking itself finally comes. Beer needs to be sipped in small and blissful sips. They should advance in the drinker’s throatas solemnly as an armada of victorious ships coming into a harbor after a grueling and exhausting battle. The drinking guy should try to stop the time at this stage since the climax is to come: all bubbles, flavours, coolness are bursting out as a divine firework in his mouth. And the whole supreme fluid diffuses gracefully within the channels of his body.As you can see, as long as we have a proper disposition to it, drinking of beer is at once affordable pleasure and capable of enhancing our well-being on the whole.

Secondly, from a psychological point of view, after a glass of beer or two people tend to change to good. It is not only the sense of relaxation and tranquility that comes over us after having the amber nectar but far more noble and elevated feelingsreawaken as well. The drinking person imperceptibly grows more sociable, more cordial more approachable; as though all preconceptions and prejudices have been knocked down outright. That is obvious by the sparkling eyes of the drinker who turns out ready to talk to whomever about whatever, merely for the sake of communication. Moreover, beer has the capacity to elicit virtues such as goodness, compassion and forgiveness from an otherwise hard character. Once admitting the playful spirit in him the drinker’s soul ends up in the sway of those most human characteristics and he is ready to compromise and to concede his position in the name of mutual agreement and peace of mind. The effect of beer on me, for instance, is tremendous-it pushes away my grumpiness and discontent and replaces them with tolerance and fondness for almost everything. For example the cracked and flaking walls of the dilapidating buildings around look as though they are heartily smiling at me; the scattered everywhere pieces of garbage I perceive as spinning around dancers and everything in sightlooks acceptable and worthy of respect. To put it shortly, beer drinking brings out the humans in people, although,more often than not it is viewed as a simple pleasure.

In conclusion, drinking of beer is one of those fair enjoyments which make our life worth living by gently satisfying our inherent and vital human needs for liquids but which alsohumanizes us by lifting the invisible barriers that obviously hamper people’s normal interaction.

As a conclusion I cannot help saying this quotation once I saw printed on a T-shirt:

*Don’t drink our beer excessively; only drink it on days that end in “Y”.*

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